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“Although a radical, socialistic element broke away [*from regularly organized labor*] in 1905 and formed the Industrial Workers of the World, yet the defection was not immediately serious and in general schisms have been avoided,” and then seeks in vain for further reference to the I. W. W. and what that whole movement signifies, one wonders if one’s own perspective has been completely distorted.

In general it may be said that the portion of the book dealing with the period before about 1896 is much more satisfactory than that which follows, for in the earlier portion the sense of disjointed enumeration of a multiplicity of facts is much less pronounced than in the later.

But after all is said and specific criticisms have been made to a much greater length than above, it remains to be stated that this is the most satisfactory (or least unsatisfactory) of the several works which have so far been produced to cover the period of the past half century. Each chapter has a bibliographical note which contains many useful references, although there might be suggested additions which would allow a somewhat broader interpretation. The index is fair but exasperating at times.

Alexander Hamilton. By Henry Jones Ford. Figures from American history. (New York: Charles Scribner’s sons, 1920. 373 p. \$2.00)

Hamilton’s life was so largely made up of political strife that his earlier biographers fell quite naturally into the error of assuming that full justice could be done to his reputation only by blackening indiscriminately the characters of all his political enemies. Professor Ford’s little book is highly valuable because he wrote it without a chip on his shoulder, because he has given the reader the fruits of accurate historical research in his examination of the facts of Hamilton’s life, and because he has interpreted those facts with a breadth and wisdom well calculated to lead to a clearer appreciation of the true measure of Hamilton’s statesmanship.

New light is thrown upon Hamilton’s relations with the other great men of his time. Professor Ford shows, for instance, that during the convention of 1787 there was no substantial difference between the political views of Hamilton and those of Madison. The English constitutional system was the model for each. But much stress is laid upon the later desertion of Madison and the disastrous results of it. The original plan of the federalist leaders was to establish an intimacy between congress and the executive branch through the channel of the treasury department. Madison’s influence was responsible for denying Hamilton, as secretary of the treasury, the right to defend his financial proposals in congress and thus was set the precedent for the wide gap between executive and legislative power which constitutes so serious a defect in

our present constitutional system. Professor Ford believes that Hamilton and Jefferson differed in their fundamental political principles much less than is commonly thought and he makes clear that the open breach between them did not occur until questions of foreign policy became critical. He finds one of the great blemishes on Hamilton's reputation in his willingness, after retiring from the cabinet, to continue in the private and irresponsible direction of public affairs, a direction "incompatible with any sort of constitutional government." With Adams retaining Washington's cabinet, a group which still recognized Hamilton's influence and authority, a quarrel between the two men was inevitable. But the feud was due in part to Adams' character and, while not excusing Hamilton for his final attack on Adams, the author is disposed to lay less blame on Hamilton than most historians have done. It is questionable whether Professor Ford's characterization of Adams as "a vain, irascible, garrulous pedant," does full justice to the man. Burr, on the other hand, emerges as a much less villainous figure than the admirers of Hamilton have heretofore been willing to admit. After declaring that Burr fully realized the ideal portrayed in Chesterfield's *Letters*, the author gives evidence to show that Hamilton was guilty of a continued and malicious persecution of Burr which under the customs of the day amply warranted the challenge to duel.

In Professor Ford's judgment the charges that Hamilton's political views were aristocratic or monarchial are wholly unsound. He believes him to have been far in advance of his age in recognizing and adhering to the essential principles of real democratic government. He believed in manhood suffrage and representative government. "His constitutional ideal . . . may be fairly described as plenary power in the administration, subject to direct and continuous accountability to the people, maintained by a representative assembly, broadly democratic in its character."

ROBERT EUGENE CUSHMAN

Jonathan Trumbull. Governor of Connecticut. 1769-1784. By his great-grandson, Jonathan Trumbull. (Boston: Little, Brown, and company, 1919. XIII, 362 p.)

Among the "war governors" of the American revolution, there is no more picturesque figure than that of Jonathan Trumbull, the sturdy Puritan whig who took his place at the head of the Connecticut government on the death of his predecessor in 1768 and held it, by repeated annual elections, for more than fifteen years. His services to his own state and to the common cause of independence were great and are naturally recalled with satisfaction in this book by one of his descendants. Unfortunately, the author did not live to see the work through the press.

This is not the first attempt at a biography of Governor Trumbull.